

REMARKS

With entry of the foregoing amendment, Claims 2, 3, 6-10, 12, 13, 16-21, 24, 25, and 28-52 are now in the application.

Claims 1-6, 8-16, 18-20, 22-28, and 30-32 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by McGowan et al. (U.S. Patent 5,937,345).

The Applicant notes with appreciation that Claims 7, 17, and 29 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Accordingly, those claims have been amended to incorporate all of the limitations of base Claims 1, 11, and 23, respectively, and any intervening claims. Claims 7, 17, and 29 are, therefore, now allowable.

Because amended Claims 2, 3, 6, 8-10, 12, 13, 16, 18-20, 24, 25, 28, 30-33 are now dependent on and limited by now allowable Claims 7, 17, and 29 respectively, the Applicant respectfully submits that the rejections regarding these claims should be withdrawn.

The Applicant also notes with appreciation that base Claim 21 is allowed.

Because new Claims 33-38 are dependent on and limited by allowed base Claim 21, the Applicant respectfully submits that these claims are allowable.

New Claim 39 is a method claim that corresponds to the features of allowed base Claim 21. It should therefore be in a condition for allowance. New Claims 40-45 are dependent on and limited by allowable Claim 39 and therefore should be allowable.

New Claim 46 is a computer program product style claim that corresponds to the features of allowed base Claim 21. It should therefore now be in condition for allowance. New Claims 47-52 are dependent on and limited by allowable Claim 46 and therefore should be allowable.

Information Disclosure Statement

An Information Disclosure Statement (IDS) is being filed concurrently herewith. Entry of the IDS is respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

In view of the above amendments and remarks, it is believed that Claims 2,3, 6-10, 12, 13, 16-21, 24, 25, and 28-52 are in condition for allowance, and it is respectfully requested that the application be passed to issue. If the Examiner feels that a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this case, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,

HAMILTON, BROOK, SMITH & REYNOLDS, P.C.

By



David J. Thibodeau, Jr.

Registration No. 31,671

Telephone: (978) 341-0036

Facsimile: (978) 341-0136

Concord, MA 01742-9133

Dated: 7/21/04